REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

According to the advisory action of November 5, 2002, the amendment of October 15, 2002 responding to the July 25, 2002 office action, was not entered because the proposed amendment of claim 1 would raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. Further, the requested reconsideration of the final rejection of claims 7-37 and 39-41 would not overcome the rejection, at least in part, because of a substantial omission in the stated basis for the rejection. In response, the applicants have filed a Request for Continued Examination and submit this amendment, in addition to the amendment of October 15, 2002 with the RCE.

The applicants request amendment of the specification by amending the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 10 to delete an incomplete sentence at page 1, line 35.

Amendment of claims 7, 12, 17, 22, 28, and 34 is requested, as indicated above, to delete a redundant article ("said") in one or more lines of the claims. Amendment of claims 28 and 34 is requested to replace the term "manipulator" with the term "cursor," used elsewhere in the claim.

Claims 7-37 and 39-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gest et al., U.S. Patent 5,333,247 (Gest) in view of Sciammarella et al., U.S. Patent 6,320,599 (Sciammarella), and further in view of Kreegar, U.S. Patent 5,396,590 (Kreegar). The applicants submit that for a claim to be obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, there must be some suggestion or motivation, in either the references themselves or the knowledge generally, to modify or combine the reference teachings; a reasonable expectation of success; and the references must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations (MPEP 2143).

Gest discloses a graphical user interface including a "scroll" box superimposed on the display. The location of the scroll box on the display is representative of the relative position that the displayed information has to the beginning of the buffer in which the information is stored. The size of the scroll box, in relation to the size of the information display or window, is of the same proportions as the "size" of the displayed information to the total "size" of the information stored in the buffer (column 2, line(s) 56-63). The applicants respectfully submit that Gest does not disclose or suggest an interface enabling a user to alter the size of an active region of an information area by interaction with a dimension of the graphic representation of

the active region, but the advisory action asserts that Gest "teaches sizing the box, at column 6, line(s) 43-47."

> Gest states (column 6, line(s) 40-47):
>
> By positioning the box 16 relative to the containing window 12 in this way, the user can be given a visual representation of the portion of the data 4 being displayed within the window 12 relative to the buffer 14. By sizing the box 16 relative to the window 12, the user can also be given a visual representation of how much of the buffer 14 is being displayed within the window 12 relative to the size of the whole buffer14.

When the box of Gest is invoked, the size of the box is automatically determined, by box generation logic, with the ratios of the vertical and horizontal dimensions of the box to the corresponding dimensions of the window being equal to the ratios the horizontal and vertical dimensions of the window to the corresponding "dimensions" of the buffer as a whole (column 5, line 58 - column 6, line 14). The "dimensions" of the buffer and the window are determined by accessing system variables and/or computing values from primary data, including the number of rows of characters in the buffer and the number of characters in a row and "the height 2A and width 2B of the displayed portion of the data." The applicants submit that the scroll box generation method disclosed in Gest establishes the dimensions of the box from the "dimensions" of the displayed information. However, Gest does not disclose or suggest a method for generating a box of an arbitrary size established by the user or a method for determining the "dimensions" of the displayed information from the dimensions of a scroll box arbitrarily "sized" by a user. The applicants respectfully submit that the portion of Guest referenced in the advisory action restates the claimed informational attributes of the position and size of the displayed scroll box, but does not suggest that the interface of Gest permits user manipulation of the size of the scroll box or the active region of the information area.

In addition, the office action of July 25, 2002, concedes that Gest does not teach altering the scale of an object by interaction of a manipulator and a graphic representation of an active region of an information area. The office action asserts, however, that scaling of objects within limits is known in the art, as exemplified by Sciammarella which teaches a zooming scale indicator "wherein first and second marks indicate corresponding limits for enlarging and

reducing." The applicants submit that while Sciammarella discloses a zooming scale indicator illustrating the present level of zoom in relation to the minimum and maximum zoom limits, Sciammarella does not disclose or suggest altering the size of an active region of an information area by interaction of a manipulator and a dimension of a graphic representation of the active area or altering a scale of a displayed object by interaction of the manipulator and a graphic representation of an active region of an information area. The advisory action concedes that neither Gest nor Sciammarella discloses a manipulator that interacts directly with a graphic representation of an active region of an information area. In addition, Sciammarella discloses a method of zooming comprising positioning the cursor on a portion 118 (a so-called toolbar) of a display, moving the cursor 116 to an appropriate item in a pull-down menu, such as sub-memu 120, and clicking on "ZOOM -IN" until the desired zoom is obtained (column 3, line(s) 16-25). However, the applicants respectfully submit that Sciammarella does not disclose altering the size of an active region of an information area by interaction with a dimension of a graphic representation of the active region or changing the scale of an object within an active region of an information area by interaction with a graphic representation of the active region.

While, the advisory action concedes that neither Gest nor Sciammarella discloses a manipulator that interacts directly with a graphic representation of an active region of an information area to enable alteration, it asserts that Kreegar teaches direct manipulation of graphic objects using shape control tools, at figure 3 and column 5, line 56 - column 6, line 18. More specifically, the applicants respectfully submit that Kreegar discloses direct manipulation of graphic shapes (an encapsulated geometry recognized by an underlying graphics engine) (column 5, line(s) 16-22) making up a graphic image or picture (column 4, line(s) 50-60) contained within a window or visible display area (column 4, line(s) 44-46). However, the applicants respectfully submit that Kreegar does not disclose or suggest an interface including a manipulator that permits alteration of an active region of an information area or altering the scale of a displayed object within an active region of an information area by interaction between the manipulator and a dimension of a graphic representation of the active region.

The applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 is not obvious from the suggested combination of Gest, Sciammarella, and Kreegar because none of the references, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests all of the claim limitations including an interface that

enables a user to alter a size of an active region of an information area by interaction with a dimension of a graphic representation of the active region; an interface that enables a user to alter the size of a displayed object by interaction with a graphic representation of an active region of information; or a graphical user interface comprising a manipulator enabling a user to alter the size of an active region of an information area by interaction of the manipulator and a graphical representation of the active region. The applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7.

Claims 8-11 are dependent from claim 7 and inherit all of the limitations of claim 7. The applicants respectfully submit that since claim 7 is not obvious from the combination of Gest, Sciammarella, and Kreegar, for the reasons stated above, claims 8-11 are, likewise, not obvious from the combination. In addition, with regard to claims 8 and 9, the applicants submit that none of the references disclose or suggest an interface wherein the scale of a displayed object is minified or magnified by interaction with the graphical representation of an active area when the dimension of the active area is, respectively, at a minimum limit or a maximum limit. While the advisory action relies on Sciammarella for disclosing zooming between limits there is no suggestion in Sciammarella that further minification or magnification of an object is possible once the present zoom level has reached one of the respective limits. The applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8-11.

The applicants respectfully submit that claim 12 is not obvious from the suggested combination of Gest, Sciammarella, and Kreegar because, as stated above, none of the references, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest all of the claim limitations including an interface that enables a user to alter a size of an active region of an information area by interaction with a dimension of a graphic representation of the active region; an interface that enables a user to alter the size of a displayed object by interaction with a graphic representation of an active region of information; or a graphical user interface comprising a manipulator enabling a user to alter the size of an active region of an information area by interaction of the manipulator and a graphical representation of the active region. The applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 12.

Claims 13-16 are dependent from claim 12 and inherit all of the limitations of claim 12. The applicants respectfully submit that since claim 12 is not obvious from the combination of

Gest, Sciammarella, and Kreegar, for the reasons asserted above, claims 13-16 are, likewise, not obvious from the combination. Further, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 13 and 14 are also not obvious for the additional reasons submitted, above, with regard to claims 8 and 9. The applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 13-16.

With regard to claims 17 and 22, the advisory action concedes that neither Gest nor Sciammarella teaches a manipulator that interacts directly with a graphic representation to enable alteration, but the advisory action asserts that Kreegar teaches direct manipulation of graphic objects using shape control tools at figure 3 and column 5, line 56 - column 6, line 18. The applicants submit that while Kreegar discloses interaction between a shape tool and a graphic object that displayed within an active region of an information area, Kreegar does not teach or suggest a tool or a cursor that enables a user to alter a scale of an object displayed within the active region by interacting with a graphic representation of the active region of the information area or a tool that enables a user to alter the size of the active region of an information area by interaction with a graphic representation of the active region. Further, as asserted above, none of the references, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest an interface that enables a user to alter a size of an active region of an information area by interaction with a dimension of a graphic representation of the active region or to alter the scale of an object by interaction with a graphic representation of the active region. The applicants respectfully submit that claims 17 and 22 are not obvious from Gest, Sciammarella, and Kreegar and request withdrawal of the rejection because none of the references, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests all of the limitations of claims 17 or 22.

Claims 18-21 are dependent from claim 17 and claims 23-27 are dependent from claim 22 and inherit all of the limitations, respectively, of claims 17 and 22. The applicants respectfully submit that since claims 17 and 22 are not obvious from the combination of Gest, Sciammarella, and Kreegar, for the reasons asserted above, claims 18-21 and 23-27 are, likewise, not obvious from the combination. Further, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 18 and 19 are also not obvious for the additional reasons asserted above with regard to claims 8 and 9. The applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 18-21 and 23-27.

With regard to claims 28 and 34, the advisory action concedes that neither Gest nor Sciammarella teaches a manipulator that interacts directly with a graphic representation to enable alteration, but the advisory action asserts that Kreegar teaches direct manipulation of graphic objects using shape control tools at figure 3 and column 5, line 56 - column 6, line 18. The applicants submit that while Kreegar discloses interaction between a shape tool and a graphic object that is displayed within an active region of an information area, none of Kreegar, Gest, nor Sciammarella teaches altering the data included in an active region to change a scale of an object by direct interaction of a cursor and a graphic representation of the active region when a dimension of the graphic representation is at a limit. The applicants respectfully submit that claims 28 and 34 are not obvious from Gest, Sciammarella, and Kreegar and request withdrawal of the rejection because none of the references, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests all of the claim limitations.

Claims 29-33, 35-37, and 39-41 are respectively dependent from claims 28 and 34, and inherit all of the limitations of the claims from which they depend. The applicants respectfully submit that since claims 28 and 34 is not obvious from the combination of Gest, Sciammarella, and Kreegar, for the reasons asserted above, claims 29-33, 35-37, and 39-41 are, likewise, not obvious from the combination. Further, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 29, 30, 35, and 36 are also not obvious for the additional reasons asserted, above, with regard to claims 8 and 9. The applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 29-33, claims 35-37, and claims 39-41.

The applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes that for any reason direct contact with applicants' attorney would
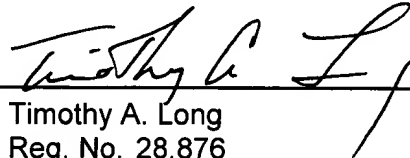
Appl. No.: 09/420,321
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advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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